

Weekly Compilation of  
**Presidential  
Documents**



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**Editor's Note:** The President was at the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX, on February 21, the closing date of this issue. Releases and announcements issued by the Office of the Press Secretary but not received in time for inclusion in this issue will be printed next week.

## WEEKLY COMPILATION OF

## PRESIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS

Published every Monday by the Office of the Federal Register, National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, DC 20408, the *Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents* contains statements, messages, and other Presidential materials released by the White House during the preceding week.

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Week Ending Friday, February 21, 2003

## **The President's Radio Address**

*February 15, 2003*

Good morning. Last week the national terrorist threat level was raised to "high." This is primarily a signal to Federal, State, and local law enforcement to take additional precautions and increase security measures against potential terrorist attacks. Raising the threat level also informs the general public to be more alert to their surroundings and prepared for possible emergencies in the event of an attack.

Americans should go about their lives. And for those seeking specific guidance on how to be more vigilant, I encourage you to visit the Department of Homeland Security web site at [DHS.gov](http://DHS.gov).

These recent threats are a stark reminder that our country remains engaged in a war on terror. Our enemies are still determined to attack America, and there is no such thing as perfect security against a hidden network of killers. Yet, I assure you that our government at every level is responding to this threat, working to track down every lead and standing watch 24 hours a day against terrorism.

This past week, Secretary of Homeland Security Tom Ridge issued strategic plans to protect our critical infrastructure. These plans will guide local officials in securing our Nation's dams and powerplants, electrical grids, computer networks, and communications systems.

Our effort to safeguard the homeland includes tighter security at the borders and ports of entry. We have posted more than 50,000 newly trained Federal screeners at airports. We have begun inoculating troops and first-responders against smallpox. We are deploying the Nation's first early warning network of sensors to detect biological attack. And we are moving to better coordinate the efforts of law enforcement.

This week at FBI headquarters, I spoke to some of the fine men and women who are leading our antiterrorism efforts in law enforcement and intelligence. The FBI, CIA, Department of Homeland Security, and Department of Defense are working together as never before to assemble and analyze the threat information so we can act before our enemies can strike us.

We are gathering the best information possible and using it to make sure the right people are in the right places to protect our citizens. Throughout the country, Joint Terrorism Task Forces are bringing together Federal, State, and local officials to fight terrorism. The FBI is expanding its terrorist identification system so that 18,000 State and local law enforcement agencies will be able to identify known or suspected terrorists almost immediately. Local police will be able to access Federal terrorist information from their squad cars to determine whether individuals they have pulled over or detained have terrorist links.

I've also asked Congress to fill a critical need in our defense against bioterror by committing almost \$6 billion to quickly make available effective vaccines and treatments against agents like smallpox, anthrax, botulinum toxin, Ebola, and plague.

Our Nation is preparing for a variety of threats we hope never will arrive. Many of these dangers are unfamiliar and unsettling. Yet the best way to fight these dangers is to anticipate them and act against them with focus and determination. This vigilance is a fundamental responsibility of your Government, and we are fulfilling that duty in every way we can.

In the fight against terror, the American people are resolute. We will persevere, and we will prevail.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 10:15 a.m. on February 14 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on February

15. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on February 14 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

**Remarks at the Swearing-In Ceremony for William Donaldson as Chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission and an Exchange With Reporters**

*February 18, 2003*

**The President.** Darn right. Bill, welcome, and Jane, thanks for coming. It's my honor to welcome your family here to the Roosevelt Room. And I'm proud to welcome Bill Donaldson as the Chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Bill will be a strong leader of the SEC and a forceful advocate for the interests of investors. He's the right man at the right time. We're so honored you've agreed to accept this challenge, really appreciate it.

Bill Donaldson spent a career preparing for this challenge. He has served as a founder of a leading investment banking firm, chairman of the New York Stock Exchange, the founding dean of the Yale School of Management. He has set high standards throughout his entire career. He will lead an active and energetic agency.

This agency has been working hard. They've last year filed a record number of actions for financial reporting and disclosure violations, sought the removal of more than 100 corporate officers and directors on the grounds of misconduct, and ordered corporations and executives to return to investors hundreds of million dollars in improper gains.

This administration is committed to the enforcement of the security laws. We're committed to creating a climate of confidence in our markets. There's no better person to help achieve that commitment than Bill Donaldson. In the 2004 budget, I'm asking Congress to increase SEC funding by 73 percent over the year 2002. We want to make sure the SEC has the tools necessary to pursue its important mission.

This Nation is increasingly a nation of stockholders, who invest for their families and for their futures. Americans should be confident in the information they use in order to make investment decisions. All investors deserve to be treated fairly in the Tax Code as well. Investors should not be punished for saving and investing in America's future. Investors should not be—should be rewarded for taking risk in the marketplace. The Tax Code ought to treat these people fairly, and so that's why I've proposed that Congress end the unfair and unwise double taxation of dividends. This measure could improve corporate governance in America as well.

Companies across America attract investors in a number of ways. One such way is to promise rapid growth, is to say, "Even though we may not have cashflow, the future of our company is magnificent. Therefore, invest with us." Another way, of course, is to promise a steady source of income in the form of dividends. Eliminating double taxation of dividends would give more companies a reason to distribute their profits through direct cash to investors in the form of dividends. With dividends serving as a stronger foundation for long-term value, companies that pay them will have less motive to artificially inflate profits just to cause temporary increases in stocks.

Our law should not discriminate against those companies that focus on stable, long-term growth. Eliminating the double taxation of dividends is good for American investors; it's good for American seniors; it's good for corporate reform.

I'm glad Bill Donaldson has agreed to take charge of an agency with the vital purpose of showing the American investor that they're—can rely upon the data on which they use to evaluate investments, to really say to the markets loud and clear that we expect there to be corporate integrity throughout our system. This is a man who has not only set high standards but has achieved them. He's got a lot of talent and a lot of drive, a lot of wisdom, and a lot of integrity.

Mr. Chairman.

*[At this point, Chairman Donaldson made brief remarks.]*

**The President.** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good job.

**Chairman Donaldson.** Thanks.

**The President.** Thank you. Ron [Ron Fournier, Associated Press]. I'll answer a couple of questions here.

### **Protests and Action Against Iraq**

**Q.** Thank you, Mr. President. What do you make of the fact that millions of people across the globe have taken to the streets to protest your approach to Iraq? And if you decide to go to war, how do you wage a campaign in the face of such stiff opposition?

**The President.** Two points: One is that democracy is a beautiful thing and that people are allowed to express their opinion. I welcome people's right to say what they believe.

Secondly, evidently some of the world don't view Saddam Hussein as a risk to peace. I respectfully disagree. Saddam Hussein has gassed his own people. Saddam Hussein has got weapons of mass destruction. Saddam Hussein has made—has defied the United Nations. Saddam Hussein is providing links to terrorists. Saddam Hussein is a threat to America, and we will deal with him.

You know, I—war is my last choice. But the risk of doing nothing is even a worst option as far as I'm concerned. I owe it to the American people to secure this country. I will do so.

**Q.** Have you decided how to do so yet?

**The President.** Pardon me?

**Q.** Have you decided how you're going to deal with him yet?

**The President.** Hopefully, Saddam Hussein will disarm.

**Q.** Mr. President—

**The President.** If he chooses not to disarm, as I have been saying for a long time, Ron, we'll lead a coalition of the willing to disarm him.

Steve [Steve Holland, Reuters].

### **U.N. Security Council Resolution**

**Q.** Should a second resolution on Iraq include a deadline? And how are you going to get around the opposition from France, Russia, and China?

**The President.** We're working with our friends. As I said, a second resolution would be useful. We don't need a second resolution. It's clear this guy could even care less about the first resolution. He's in total defiance of 1441. But we want to work with our friends and allies to see if we can get a second resolution. That's what we're doing right now.

**Q.** With a deadline?

**The President.** We're working with our friends and allies right now to—how best to get a resolution out of the United Nations. As I say, it would be helpful to get one out. It's not necessary, as far as I'm concerned.

### **Turkey**

**Q.** Mr. President, are you any closer to an aid package for Turkey, particularly given the continued problems with NATO regarding any defense of Turkey?

**The President.** Well, first of all, as you know, NATO did express their desire to help Turkey, and I appreciate the NATO Allies. I also appreciate the EU statement yesterday that Saddam Hussein needs to fully disarm. I thought those were positive developments. We're working closely with the Turks. And you know, we've got great respect for the Turkish Government. They've got—had no better friend than the American Government. And hopefully we can come up with an agreement that's satisfactory to both parties. We're still working it.

Yes, Bill [Bill Plante, CBS News].

### **Iraq/United Nations**

**Q.** Mr. President, would it be easier to win the peace after the war in Iraq—if there is one—if you had the allies with you going in? And what about the idea of an ultimatum for Saddam, another last chance?

**The President.** Well, you mean another, another, another last chance? Well, he knows my feelings, and that is he needs to disarm—completely, totally disarm. Listen, he's a fellow that likes to buy time through deception and delay. He believes time is on his side. After all, he was quoted in an Egyptian newspaper as saying all he's got to do is stall and defy the world, and you know, coalitions will fall apart.

I am determined to keep the peace. I'm determined to hold this man to account. And

there's two reasons why: One, we have the obligation, I have the obligation, this administration has the obligation to do everything we can to protect the American people; secondly, I think it's very important for the United Nations to be useful as we go out into the future. And there's nothing less useful than issuing a resolution and then not upholding the resolution. And, after all, I want to remind the people that this man has been in defiance of resolution after resolution after resolution for 12 long years. And I think unless the United Nations shows some backbone and courage, it will render the—it could render the Security Council irrelevant. And that's a danger, in dealing with the new threats that the civilized world faces.

We face terrorism. We face the idea of people having nuclear arms. We face people who have got weapons of mass destruction. We face these deadly terrorist networks teaming up with countries with weapons of mass destruction who could attack anytime. Those are the threats of the 21st century. The best way to deal with those threats is to have international organizations which are effective. And if the United Nations can't enforce its own resolutions—a resolution which, by the way, has been around for 12 years—it says something about its utility as we head into the future.

I want the United Nations to be effective body. I think it's in our country's interest that it be effective. And we'll see whether or not it's got the capacity to be effective.

Yes, Anne [Anne Kornblut, Boston Globe].

#### **Prime Minister Tony Blair of the United Kingdom**

**Q.** Given the size of the protests in England over the weekend, do you have any concerns that Tony Blair might pay a serious political price for supporting you on Iraq?

**The President.** I think anytime somebody shows courage, when it comes to peace, that the people will eventually understand that.

First of all, you know, size of protest, it's like deciding, well, I'm going to decide policy based upon a focus group. The role of a leader is to decide policy based upon the security—in this case, the security of the people. Tony Blair understands that Saddam Hussein is a risk. Tony Blair sees that, you know, a

weakened United Nations is not good for world peace. And he is a courageous leader, and I'm proud to call him friend.

Another courageous leader is coming to the ranch this weekend, Jose Maria Aznar. I'm looking forward to having a good meeting with him. These are men of vision. They see the task at hand. And I'm proud to call them allies. We'll work together for the sake of peace.

Listen, thank you all very much.

**NOTE:** The President spoke at 10:22 a.m. in the Roosevelt Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Jane Donaldson, wife of Chairman Donaldson; President Saddam Hussein of Iraq; and President Jose Maria Aznar of Spain. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of Chairman Donaldson. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

#### **Remarks Prior to Discussions With Secretary General Lord Robertson of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization**

*February 19, 2003*

**President Bush.** Today we'll have a statement. I'm going to make a statement. George will make a statement. No questions.

George, welcome. I'm honored to have you here. You represent our Nation's most important Alliance, NATO. Today, this Alliance is providing equipment to Turkey to help protect our Turkish ally from a potential attack from Iraq.

I want to thank you for your leadership. You've done a fantastic job of keeping this Alliance together, moving it forward by not only addressing the current threats that we face but preparing NATO to address threats into the future. And I congratulate on a great leadership and welcome you back to the Oval Office.

**Lord Robertson.** Thanks, Mr. President. On the 12th of September, NATO passed a declaration of Article 5 of the Washington Treaty. We came to the aid of an Ally, the United States, under threat, under attack.

And today we've sent AWACS aircraft and Patriot missiles and chem, bio, and defensive

equipment to Turkey, another Ally, in trouble, under threat, asking for help. That's what the Alliance of free nations is all about.

Sometimes we—you know, we can take a bit of time to do it. It reminded me of Winston Churchill, whose bust is over there, who once famously said of the United States of America, "The United States can always be counted on to do the right thing, after it's exhausted every other alternative." [*Laughter*]

Well, you can say exactly the same thing about NATO, but when we get there, we're strong, and we stand for the values that unite a great Alliance.

**President Bush.** Well, thank you, sir.

**Lord Robertson.** You're welcome.

**President Bush.** I appreciate you. Thanks. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 5:29 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

### **Statement on the North Atlantic Treaty Organization Decision on Planning for the Defense of Turkey**

*February 19, 2003*

I welcome today's decision by NATO's Defense Planning Committee to approve the deployment of AWACS aircraft, Patriot missiles, and biological and chemical defense equipment to Turkey. This is an important demonstration of the solidarity of NATO Allies in view of a potential threat to an Alliance member. It follows the decision taken on Sunday, by the same committee, to request military planning for such deployments.

Today's decision is a direct response to the request by Turkey for consultations under Article 4 of the Washington Treaty as well as the commitment by all NATO Heads of State and Government, stated at Prague on November 21, 2002, "to take effective action to assist and support the efforts of the U.N. to ensure the full and immediate compliance by Iraq, without conditions or restrictions, with UNSCR 1441."

I am grateful for the resolute leadership of NATO Secretary General Lord Robertson

in bringing the Alliance discussions to a successful conclusion. I also appreciate the efforts of all the members of the Defense Planning Committee to fulfill their responsibilities as Alliance members in exceptionally difficult circumstances.

### **Letter to Congressional Leaders Transmitting a Report on Cyprus**

*February 19, 2003*

*Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. Chairman:)*

In accordance with section 620C(c) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended, I am providing a report prepared by my Administration on progress toward a negotiated solution of the Cyprus question covering the period December 1, 2002, through January 31, 2003. The previous submission covered events from October 1, 2002, through November 30, 2002.

My Administration was particularly active during this reporting period in supporting U.N. Secretary-General Annan's efforts to foster a comprehensive Cyprus settlement on the basis of the plan he has proposed. Although such a settlement did not emerge at the European Union's Summit in Copenhagen in December, intense diplomatic activity has continued. Secretary Powell, Under Secretary Marc Grossman, Special Cyprus Coordinator Thomas Weston, and Ambassador to Cyprus Michael Klosson are encouraging all relevant parties to maintain a spirit of compromise and a commitment to reaching an agreement by February 28, 2003. I will do the same as part of our continuing commitment to the U.N. effort to find a just and lasting settlement for Cyprus.

Sincerely,

**George W. Bush**

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Richard G. Lugar, chairman, Senate Committee on Foreign Relations. This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on February 20.

### Remarks at Carl Harrison High School in Kennesaw, Georgia

February 20, 2003

Thank you all very much. Thanks a lot. So, I'm on my way down to Crawford, and I thought it would be wise to stop in Cobb County. And I'm glad I did. Thank you for that incredibly warm welcome. It is wonderful to be here at Harrison High. I'm honored to be in the presence of the principal, Donnie Griggers. I want to thank he and his staff—he and his fine staff for putting up with the entourage. *[Laughter]* I appreciate all the teachers here at Harrison High. I want to thank you for teaching. Yours is a noble profession, an important profession, and all of us who care about our children and our children's future thank you for teaching and sharing your wisdom and your love for our children.

I appreciate the Harrison High students who are here. Listen to your teacher and your mother, by the way. I'm still listening to mine. *[Laughter]* But I'm honored the students are here, and thank you for sharing your facility with us.

I've come to your school to talk about the need for this Nation to assume responsibilities, that we have a responsibility to keep the peace and to protect the homeland, that we have a responsibility to make sure this economy is strong so people can find work. We have a responsibility to nourish the entrepreneurial spirit of America. We have that responsibility. And I want to talk to you about the need for all of us to assume our responsibilities as we go through life.

If you're fortunate enough to be a mom or a dad, you're responsible for loving that child with all your heart and all your soul. If you're a citizen of democracy, you're responsible for participating in the political process. If you're a leader, you're responsible for doing what you think is right on behalf of all of the citizens. And that's why I'm so honored—*[applause]*.

Those of us in office have the responsibility to reject partisan politics which divides our Nation, that ugly politics, which says, if so and so wins, such and such has got to lose—the zero-sum politics that oftentimes enters the discourse of Washington, DC. We

have a responsibility to lift up issues beyond the mud pit of politics.

And that's why I'm so honored to be standing here with Democrat Senator Zell Miller, American first. He is the kind of fellow that tells you exactly what he thinks. If he agrees with you, he tells you he agrees with you. If he doesn't agree with you, he'll tell you that, too. *[Laughter]* One thing you can be certain of, he puts his country ahead of the political party. I'm proud to call him friend. I listen to him. And I'm proud of the fact that he is going to sponsor the tax relief plan I'm going to tell you about in a minute.

I'm also proud to be traveling with Saxby Chambliss, newly elected Senator from Georgia. These two Senators make a fine combination on behalf of all the people. Your State is really well represented in the Halls of the United States Senate.

I'm proud to be with the man who's got one of the greatest jobs in America, the Governor of the State of Georgia. It's interesting we're here with Sonny in a school, because I understand his passion for public education. He understands that's the number one priority of any State. And I believe a result of his leadership and working with the teachers and principals and administrators and parents, education in this great State is going to flourish for every single child. No child is going to be left behind in the State of Georgia.

We've got the members of the mighty Georgia congressional delegation with us. I say mighty, because they're mighty strong. And I'm mighty proud to call them all friends. The Congressman from this district, Johnny Isakson, is with us today. Newly elected Phil Gingrey is with us as well. And John Linder from the Atlanta region is with us. And some of the country boys from the delegation arrived with us today—*[laughter]*—Charlie Norwood, Mac Collins, and Max Burns, all fine Members. Thank you all for coming.

I am proud to be in the presence of State and local leaders. Thank you all for being here. Recently I had a—recently—like 15 minutes ago, I had a chance to—*[laughter]*—really recently—*[laughter]*—I had a chance to visit with some of our fellow citizens. I'm going to talk about them a little later on. I



think it's very important for our fellow Americans to know that when I talk about tax relief and talk about the entrepreneurial spirit, that it can relate directly to people in your neighborhoods and your communities. I want to thank you all for coming today.

I also want to recognize a fellow named Bob Langley. Where are you, Bob? Right there. Thank you for coming. The reason I mentioned Bob is he came out to Air Force One to greet me. He represents thousands of our fellow citizens who have heard a call to help somebody in need. He is a volunteer for Hospice Atlanta and the American Cancer Society. He is a citizen, like many of you here and many around the country, who know that each of us has a responsibility to make our communities better by following our hearts and helping people in need.

See, the greatest strength of America, the greatest strength of our country, lies in the hearts and souls of our fellow citizens. And my call—my call to particularly the students here—is that, in a responsible society, not only do you have a responsibility to make right choices, but you've got a responsibility to help somebody who hurts, to make somebody's life a little brighter, to love a neighbor just like you'd like to be loved yourself. Here's a living example of a member of the army of compassion. Bob, I thank you for your example. I thank you for what you do in the city of Atlanta to help somebody in need. Welcome.

We've got an amazing country. Just look what we have been through the last couple of years, starting with the economic challenges that this country has faced. First the stock market peaked in March of 2000, people feeling pretty good about the stock market, and then it started heading down. And then the economy went into three quarters of negative growth, which is the definition of a recession. In other words, we weren't—we were going backwards for three solid quarters. That affects a lot of people's lives when that happens. It means people are—can't find work. It means that instead of being optimistic about the future, many of our citizens were pessimistic about their future.

And so we did something about it. I want to thank Zell for his leadership in the Halls

of the Senate. We passed tax relief, which helped this economy begin to grow again. And this—as the economy was beginning to grow, then the terrorists, the killers, hit us. And that affected the economic vitality of the country. There's no question about it—the shock to a system, the damage that the attacks did on our financial markets as well as the airline industry, for example.

But we acted. We came together as a country. We responded. The people responded with great strength and courage. The Congress responded by passing terrorism insurance. The administration responded by getting the financial markets opened quickly. We responded by helping airlines, such as Delta Airlines, to get flying again. The Nation responded.

And then we suffered another shock to the system, and that is we found out some corporate citizens were not responsible citizens, because they thought they could not tell the truth and get away with it. And that caused a lot of Americans to take a step back and reflect about what they were hearing when it came to somebody's balance sheet. In other words, if they were an investor, they got a little nervous about the numbers they were looking at. So the country responded. And I had the honor of signing the most sweeping corporate accountability reforms, supported by both Republicans and Democrats, since Franklin Roosevelt was the President of the United States.

And now we're sending a clear message that in a responsible society, if you don't tell the truth, there's going to be a consequence. We're going to find you and hold you to account if you don't tell the truth to shareholders and employees alike.

So it's been an amazing period for this Nation and our economy to have overcome those obstacles. But there's still too many people looking for work. There's still too many people who wonder whether or not their future is bright enough. And I think we need to continue to move forward with good, positive legislation that will turn this recovery into lasting prosperity. It's to make sure that the economic growth we're seeing now lasts, so that the great American hope and American Dream can spread its—can spread throughout all our society.

And so you ask the question, "If things aren't going as well as they should, what should we do?" Well, I agree with Zell, with this economic theory, that when a person has more money in their pocket, they're likely to demand somebody to produce them a good or a service. In other words, you get money in your pocket, you say, "Well, I think I'd like this product, or I'd like this service." And when you make that demand in a market-oriented society like ours, somebody is going to produce it. And when somebody produces a good or a service to meet your demand, it means somebody is more likely to find work.

And therefore, the cornerstone of good economic policy recognizes that the money in Washington, DC, is not the Government's money. It's the people's money. And the more of it you have in your pocket, the more likely somebody is going to find a job. And that is the principle of the plan I'm going to describe to you, that I described to Congress, a plan that will be introduced by Zell and supported by the Members here, a plan that both—members of both parties recognize that makes sense.

It starts with reducing the rates of people who pay taxes. Everybody who pays taxes, in my judgment, ought to get rate relief. We ought not try to pick and choose. I don't think your Government wants to decide, "Well, you qualify for rate relief, and you don't." If you pay taxes and there's going to be tax reduction, everybody who pays taxes ought to get relief. It's only fair that it be done that way. You don't want your Government picking winners and losers when it comes to tax policy.

Secondly, we have what's called a marriage penalty in the Tax Code. That's backwards. We ought not to penalize marriage in America. So therefore, we must phase out the effects of the marriage penalty. We've got in our Tax Code a child credit, and we think we ought to raise the child credit from \$600 a child to \$1,000 a child. That policy will not only help moms and dads, it will—it sends the right signal in our society. It's good policy to do that. It's got the right social policy with it as well, it seems like to us.

And so I've asked Congress to pass rate reductions and increase the child credit, do

away with—start the process of getting rid of the marriage penalty. But the interesting thing is we've already passed this, see. In 2001, the Congress decided—along with a little urging from the White House, I might add—[*laughter*]*—*to reduce all rates on people who pay taxes, to get rid of the—to phase out, to the extent possible, the marriage penalty, to raise the child credit to \$1,000. It's been approved.

But instead of approving it and having it all in one year, Congress decided in 2001 that they would phase it in over a period of years. And so I'm going to the United States Congress and say, "Wait a minute. If these—tax relief is good enough 3 or 5 or 7 years from now, and the economy is not as strong as it should be, if you thought tax relief would help economic growth, let's accelerate the tax relief. You've already passed it once. Let's make it effective this year."

And I'm also going to ask Congress to make sure that we make the tax relief effective as of January 1st, so that it has an immediate effect on our economy. So I look forward to working with Members of the House and the Senate to get this passed, to make it effective January 1st, so that the hard-working citizens of America will see this in their paychecks as soon as possible. That's how you stimulate the economy. That's how you make sure people who are looking for work can find work.

I'm optimistic about our future because I'm optimistic about Americans. I'm optimistic about the entrepreneurial spirit of this country. There's a blue chip survey from leading economists that predict growth this year of 3.3 percent. And that's positive. But I want to remind the Members of Congress who are going to be studying whether or not there needs to be tax relief that a part of the fine print of this prediction is this: The economists are basing this prediction on Congress passing tax relief this year. In other words, inherent in the 3.3 percent prediction of economic growth is that Congress acts in a positive way.

If Congress doesn't act, there's a risk we won't have economic vitality the likes of which we all support. My point to you is that this plan makes sense. It makes sense from not only what sounds—a commonsensical

perspective, but it makes sense when analyzed by the economists behind the blue chip forecasts. And I'm going to remind Congress—I don't need to remind these Members of Congress, but I want to remind other Members of Congress—[laughter]—that without the stimulus, without tax reductions, we could jeopardize the recovery that we long for.

I also want you to know this plan is fair, and it is balanced. One of the things that's important about any stimulative plan or tax relief plan, it's got to be fair. Under this plan, 92 million Americans receive an average tax cut of \$1,083. That's fair. Nearly 2.5 million taxpayers in your State of Georgia will see lower income-tax bills. That's widespread.

What's interesting about tax relief, though, is how it affects our small businesses. And it's very important for our fellow citizens to know that many small-business owners organize their businesses in such a way as that they pay tax at the individual tax rates. A Subchapter S corporation will pay tax at the individual tax rates. A limited partnership pays tax at the individual tax rates. A sole proprietorship pays tax at the individual tax rates. Most small businesses are one of those three—are organized in one of those three fashions. So when you hear me talk about individual tax rate cuts, I want you to think about its effect on small-business Georgia or small-business America.

In this State, 614,000 small-business owners will have more money in their coffers as a result of reducing the individual tax rates. And that's important. That's important because most job growth—new jobs in America are created by our small businesses, by the entrepreneurs of America. We estimate that 23 million small-business owners across America will receive average income tax rate cut of \$2,042. That matters.

You'll hear in a minute what people do with extra money in their pockets. You know what they do? They invest, or they hire. And it's the cumulative effect of 23 million small-business owners making the decision to make an investment in equipment or to hire somebody else, which will have an incredibly positive effect on this economy. We believe the tax relief plan will create 1.4 million new jobs by the end of 2004.

We also believe the Tax Code ought to be used to encourage people to make wise decisions in their businesses right now. A small business can only deduct up to \$25,000 in the year in which they make a capital purchase—\$25,000. And so we believe that in order to encourage more investment, to encourage small-business owners to buy more machines, for example, that make their business grow faster or more productive, we ought to raise that limit to \$75,000. If you raise the limit to \$75,000 and somebody is only buying \$25,000 worth of equipment because of the Tax Code, there's an additional \$50,000 of purchases in a year.

Somebody goes out and buys a piece of equipment, it means somebody's got to make the piece of equipment, which means somebody is likely—more likely to find a job in the equipment manufacturing company. And if somebody buys that equipment, it makes their company more productive, which increases wages over time. It's really important that our fellow citizens understand the stimulative effects of good economic policy when you encourage people to make wise investments, and they have more money in their pocket to make those investments.

I also want to make this Tax Code more fair. It's important that the Tax Code be fair. It's fair to tax corporate profits. That's fair. What's not fair, it seems to me, is that when a corporation distributes those profits to the shareholders in a form of what they call a dividend, that you tax it again. It doesn't make economic sense to keep taxing the same dollar over time. If part of a healthy economic society is one in which money is circulating in the private sector—this causes fewer dollars to circulate—it means less investment when you stand in between the owner of the company, the shareholder, and the distribution of once-taxed profits of that company.

And so I've asked for the Congress to join me in getting rid of the double taxation of dividends. Let me describe why I think this makes sense. First, obviously, people will have more money to invest. If an investor pays less in taxes because the double taxation of dividends is gone, that person has got more money to invest. And secondly, dividend-paying stocks become more attractive

to the investor. If you don't pay tax on the dividends, it's more likely you'll purchase a stock that pays dividends, and that's positive news.

In other words, the benefits—Americans would get more money to save and more money to invest. And that means that more capital will be available for companies, large and small, to use for expansion. The more money in circulation through investment, the more capital available. And capital equals jobs, and that's what's important to know.

The greater the number of people who are willing to invest or who want to invest also helps the stock market. The markets will benefit. And that's important because America is now an ownership society. It used to be in our history that only a few would own stocks. I bet there's a lot of people in Georgia in the old days who would look up at Wall Street and say, "You know, they own stocks. What is that all about?" Well, those days have changed. There are millions of our fellow citizens who own stocks directly or through pension plans.

America is an ownership society, by the way, and that is fantastic news for the future of this country. And as an ownership society, we've got to understand what it means to reduce taxes on dividends. It means there will be \$20 billion—this year—more dollars in circulation for investment.

It means that 10 million seniors, nearly one in four who receive dividend income, will get relief. Now, that's important. Ten million seniors rely upon dividend income as a way to make sure the quality of their life is strong in their retirement years—10 million of them. They rely—and getting rid of the double taxation on dividends is an incredibly positive thing for the quality of life of our seniors. Nine hundred thousand of your citizens will benefit right away from getting rid of the double taxation of dividends; 60 percent of them made \$75,000 or less in the year 2000. That's a fair plan.

There's also an old expression in economics that says, "Profit is an opinion, but cash is a fact." [*Laughter*] When a company pays a dividend, you know the profits are real. You get that check. Dividends encourage open and honest accounting. Good business practices shouldn't be punished in this Tax Code.

I know there's some concern about overstating of numbers, you know, "Invest in my company because the sky's the limit. We may not be cash flowing much, but the sky's the limit." Well, when you pay dividends, that "sky's the limit" business doesn't hurt. What only matters is whether or not they can distribute that cash they say they're going to distribute. It leads to conservative business practices. It leads to being people—more businesses being responsible with your money. After all, you're the owner of the company.

And so this dividend policy makes sense from a senior's perspective. It makes sense to encourage investment, and it makes sense to make sure the balance sheets of America are treated with respect. And so I urge the United States Congress to listen to the citizens who will benefit from this plan and get rid of the double taxation of dividends, for the good of the American economy.

And so, as I said, I recently met with some of your fellow citizens, starting with the Kings. The Kings started their own business right here, in 1996. You know, I don't know the moment it happened, but it had to have been an exciting moment for somebody to say, "I'm starting"—or in this case, "we are starting our own business, something I can—we can call our own." They've always invested in the profits of their firm. They believe in growing their firm, and their firm now has 60 people—60 employees, 60 people working with them. He is what I described as a Subchapter S. The Kings pay individual tax rates for their corporation.

If you're interested in the Kings expanding their business, which I am—they certainly are—it makes sense to reduce the tax rates they pay. And by cutting the individual tax rates, the Kings will have more cashflow. They also told me that it's important for them to have the best computers possible, that they got to got—upgrade their equipment to make sure that the 60 smart folks they've got working for them have got the best ability to compete in the marketplace and that equipment purchases are important to enhance the productivity, the ability for a worker to increase their output per hour.

And therefore, when we raise the exemption by 75—the ability to expense up to

\$75,000 of equipment purchases, they have told me they're going to invest in new equipment. The person that manufactures the equipment the Kings purchase also will have a—will benefit from the tax rate reduction because it's more likely they're going to need somebody to help build that equipment.

In other words, good tax policy has an effect throughout the economy. We want the Kings to continue to expand their business. I said, "Are you optimistic?" They said, "You bet we're optimistic." We want to make them a little more optimistic by letting them have more of their own money.

Lee Pickard—he's the pretty one in the back row—or at least his mother thinks so. [Laughter] Anyway, he runs Mid-State RV Sales and Rentals. It's his own business. He's a Subchapter S. In other words, he pays taxes at the individual tax rate, too.

When you hear the rhetoric about cutting taxes on individuals, it's important for our fellow citizens to also understand how many small businesses are affected. That's why the Kings and Lee are here. They represent hundreds and thousands of the companies that pay tax at the individual rate. When we talk about income tax reductions, we're affecting his ability to save money; his ability—he, too, wants to increase the amount of capital expenditure he's going to make as a result of increasing the limit to \$75,000.

I said, "What does this mean to you?" He says, "Three more employees for next year." Three more employees from this man's good business, 3 more employees from the guy across the street, 3 more employees and 10 over here, how many for the Kings—it adds up. If you're interested in job security, growth in jobs in America, the Congress must understand that this plan directly benefits the entrepreneurs of this country and will make a huge difference in the ability to find people work.

It also helps individuals. Stirlyn Harris works for Stanley King. He and his wife Billie Jeanne both work, and you're doing what you'd expect them to do as the parents of two children: They're saving. They're saving through the 401k plan, a stock purchase plan, a credit union account. They are saving. This tax relief plan will mean \$1,300 extra for them. I asked them, "What does that mean,

\$1,300? You going to play the lottery?" [Laughter] He said he didn't think so. He thinks Timothy and Travis need to have as good an education as possible throughout their life. He's putting aside that money, he and his wife, Billie Jean, putting aside that money for their children's future.

That extra money in their pocket will help them be responsible parents, will help them save. And you put \$1,300 aside for two children who are young, and let it accumulate and grow, those children are going to say, "We were blessed to have such a good mother and daddy." Tax relief has positive effects on the families of America.

Carolyn Galvin is with us. She owns Storeel Corporation. Carolyn, thank you for coming. She's got a couple of things in mind. One, she wants to make sure her business grows, and she wants to leave it to her children. That's noble, and that's great. As a matter of fact, anybody who builds up their own assets ought to be able to leave it to whoever they want to. The problem is, the Government stands in between that through the death tax. For the good of the entrepreneurial spirit in America, we need to get rid of that death tax forever.

Part of the 2001 tax relief package, we put the death tax on its way to extinction. But it's hard to explain what I'm about to tell you. It really doesn't go away forever, because of some of the quirky rules of the United States Senate. And we need—the Senate needs to join with Zell and Saxby, who agree with me that it's important to have certainty in our society. If people need to plan for their families, it's—you don't want the Tax Code saying, "Well, it may be this way. It may not be this way." The tax relief plan, including getting rid of the death tax, needs to be made permanent.

Carolyn says that as a result of allowing for more expensing, she's going to quadruple the investments that her company will make this year. That's important. As she makes additional investments, somebody is more likely to find work. It has a positive effect. Her decision, one of millions of decisions that will be made, will have an incredibly positive effect on a person looking for work. There is a connection between her decision and jobs,

and there is a connection between how she makes a decision and good tax policy.

I also want you to know that her tax bill will fall by about \$5,500 this year alone, mainly because we're getting rid of the double taxation of dividends. It is likely—I'm not going to tell her what to do, but it is likely she will, being the optimistic soul that she is—[laughter]—will invest that, is—make a decision that, "Well, you know, things are going to get better. I think I'll buy a stock or two or save it." And it's that act, that decision that circulates more capital in the private sector which helps this economy recover.

No, the people that we have talked to today—Chris Mitchell and Pamela Talley—Pamela, by the way, is a single mom. She's got the toughest job in America. It's a hard job. She can use a little extra money—of her own money, by the way. She told me that she wants to save for her 3-year-old child's education as well.

See, these are real-life stories that will affect this economy. The whole premise of the jobs-and-growth package is to trust people with their own money, based upon the idea that more money in your pocket will mean more consumption and more investment. More consumption and more investment means somebody is more likely to find work.

Not only do we need to deal with this economy—and we'll spend a lot of time on it in Washington and, I'm confident, pass good legislation—but we'll continue to make sure this homeland is secure. In order to make sure the homeland was more secure, we're obviously spending money on our military and on homeland security. And when you couple that with a recession, which means less money coming to Government, we've got us a deficit. First of all, you've got to know, when it comes to the deficit, I'm—I believe the best way to get out of it is to grow the economy so more revenues come in and then make sure Congress doesn't overspend.

But as we insist that Congress be wise with your money, we're going to make sure we spend enough to win this war. And by spending enough to win a war, we may not have a war at all.

We've got to spend enough to protect this homeland too. But the money—the budget

I submitted holds growth—setting a priority our military, setting as a priority our homeland security—it holds growth to 4 percent on discretionary spending. That's about as much as the average America's family's income is expected to grow this year. To me, it's a good benchmark for the year 2003.

Congress needs to make sure that it holds discretionary spending to 4 percent. If it's good enough for the American family's income, it's good enough for the spending habits of the United States Congress.

This great country is equal to every challenge we face here at home, and it's equal to every challenge we face abroad, and we've got some challenges. As we move to strengthen this economy, we're going to protect the American people and this homeland against ruthless killers. The terrorists who struck the United States are still determined to harm this country. It's the cold reality of the 21st century, but we are even more determined to hunt them down one by one, to disrupt their plans, and to bring them to justice.

It's important—it's very important for our citizens to understand the significant change that took place on September the 11th, 2001. Obviously, it changed a lot of people's lives, and we still mourn for the families who lost life. But it used to be that oceans—we thought oceans could protect us, that we were guarded by the oceans and that if there was a threat overseas, as a result of the protection from the oceans, we could decide whether to be involved or not. It might affect us overseas, but it couldn't affect us at home. And therefore, we have the luxury of kind of picking and choosing gathering threats.

That changed on September the 11th, 2001, because the stark reality of 2001 is that America is now a battlefield, that the war has come home. And therefore, this Nation must also confront not only shadowy terrorist networks but the gravest danger in the war on terror: outlaw regimes arming to threaten the peace with weapons of mass destruction.

After Secretary of State Powell's presentation to the United Nations Security Council, the world knows that Saddam Hussein has weapons of mass destruction, even though he said he didn't, and that he is not complying with the United Nations demands to destroy them. He is actively deceiving the

inspectors. He is actively hiding the weapons. And so the Security Council, earlier on, gave Saddam Hussein one final chance to disarm, and he's throwing that chance away.

If military force becomes necessary to disarm Iraq, this Nation, joined by others, will act decisively in a just cause, and we will prevail.

Military action is this Nation's last option. And let me tell you what's not an option: Trusting in the sanity and restraint of Saddam Hussein is not an option; denial and endless delay in the face of growing danger is not an option; leaving the lives and the security of the American people at the mercy of this dictator and his weapons of mass destruction, not an option.

America and our allies are called once again to defend the peace against an aggressive tyrant, and we accept this responsibility.

We defend the security of our country, but our cause is broader. If war is forced upon us, we will liberate the people of Iraq from a cruel and violent dictator. The Iraqi people today are not treated with dignity, but they have the right to live in dignity. The Iraqi people today are not allowed to speak out for freedom, but they have a right to live in freedom. We don't believe freedom and liberty are America's gift to the world; we believe they are the Almighty's gift to mankind. And for the oppressed people of Iraq, people whose lives we care about, the day of freedom is drawing near.

A free Iraq can be a source of hope for all the Middle East. Instead of threatening its neighbors and harboring terrorists, Iraq can be an example of progress and prosperity, in a region that needs both. If we liberate the Iraqi people, they can rest assured that we will help them build a country that is disarmed and peaceful and united and free.

The disarmament of Iraq will also demonstrate that free nations have the will and resolve to defend the peace. By defeating this threat, we will show other dictators that the path of aggression will lead to their own ruin. By defeating the threat of Iraq, we will show the world—we will show that the world is able and prepared to meet future dangers wherever they arise.

Our goal is peace, and achieving peace requires resolve and action by free nations. In

a more peaceful world, the American people will not live in fear, and the Iraqi people will not live in oppression.

The United States of America, joined by many nations—by many nations—is committed to building a world at peace and bringing a better day. There is no question in my mind—no question in my mind—that because of the strength of this country, the heart and soul of the American people, the courage of the American people, the determination of the American people, and the values of the American people, that we can have a more peaceful world, a more just society, and a more hopeful America.

May God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:58 a.m. in the school's gymnasium. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. Sonny Perdue of Georgia; and President Saddam Hussein of Iraq. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

### **Statement on Signing the Consolidated Appropriations Resolution, 2003**

*February 20, 2003*

Today I have signed into law H.J. Res. 2, the "Consolidated Appropriations Resolution, 2003," which contains the remaining 11 annual appropriations acts for fiscal year 2003. The funds appropriated by this bill will provide valuable resources for priorities such as homeland security, military operations, and education.

I am very concerned that the Congress failed to provide over \$1 billion in funds that my Administration requested for State and local law enforcement and emergency personnel, and that much of the funding that the Congress did provide is heavily earmarked for lower-priority programs that are not best designed to protect Americans against terrorism. As a result, the shortfall for homeland security First Responder programs is more than \$2.2 billion. Funds that should have been made available to the Department of Homeland Security are being diverted to programs unrelated to higher-priority terrorism preparedness and prevention efforts. My Administration will use all the

tools at its disposal to ensure that as much of this funding as possible is directed toward terrorism preparedness and prevention.

Further, although the funding level in the bill is largely consistent with the agreed upon top line level that I urged the Congress to adopt, the bill is not fully consistent with the agreed upon non-defense discretionary funding levels due to the expanded use of budgetary mechanisms, such as advance appropriations. This bill includes an increase in advance appropriations of \$2.2 billion, which should not be used to evade top line agreements on total discretionary funding.

Therefore, the FY 2004 congressional budget allocations should be reduced accordingly and the device should not be repeated in FY 2005. Finally, the bill includes \$3.3 billion for unrequested drought aid and other assistance that is only partially offset by spending reductions in the recently enacted Farm Bill.

In addition, a number of provisions of H.J. Res. 2 are inconsistent with the constitutional authority of the President to conduct foreign affairs, command the Armed Forces, supervise the unitary executive branch, protect sensitive information, and make recommendations to the Congress. Other provisions unconstitutionally condition execution of the laws by the executive branch upon approval by congressional committees.

Thus, the executive branch shall construe as advisory the provisions of the bill that purport to: direct or burden the Executive's conduct of international negotiations, such as sections 514, 556, 576, and 577 in the Foreign Operations Appropriations Act; limit the President's authority as Commander in Chief, such as language under the heading "Andean Counterdrug Initiative" in the Foreign Operations Appropriations Act and section 609 of the Commerce Appropriations Act; or limit the President's authority to supervise the unitary executive branch, such as section 718 of the Agriculture Appropriations Act and the provisions relating to Office of Management and Budget review of executive branch orders, activities, regulations, transcripts and testimony in the Treasury Appropriations Act.

In addition, the executive branch shall construe provisions that mandate, regulate,

or prohibit submission of information to the Congress or the public, such as sections 561(a), 568(a), and 574(d) of the Foreign Operations Appropriations Act and sections 620 and 622 of the Treasury Appropriations Act, in a manner consistent with the President's constitutional authority to withhold information that could impair foreign relations, national security, the deliberative processes of the Executive, or the performance of the Executive's constitutional duties. Also, the executive branch shall construe provisions that mandate or prohibit submission of recommendations to the Congress, such as section 723 of the Agriculture Appropriations Act and the provisions purporting to require submission of a request for a supplemental appropriation in the Interior Appropriations Act, in a manner consistent with the President's constitutional authority to submit for congressional consideration such measures as the President judges necessary and expedient.

Also, the executive branch shall construe as advisory, or as calling solely for notification, the provisions of this bill that purport to require congressional committee approval for the execution of a law. Any other construction would be inconsistent with the principles enunciated by the United States Supreme Court in *INS v. Chadha*. Such provisions include: provisions relating to the "Working Capital Fund," Food and Drug Administration fund transfers, and sections 704 and 719 relating to fund transfers in the Agriculture Appropriations Act; the provision relating to an expenditure plan for the entry-exit system in the Commerce Appropriations Act; and the provisions on transfer of United States Customs Service aircraft, automated commercial environment, business systems modernization, funds transfers within and among Treasury entities, Secret Service protective mission travel, museum construction, high-intensity drug trafficking area and other funding levels, building prospectus funding levels, use of the Federal building fund for emergency repairs and transfers with the fund, unobligated balances for salaries and expenses, office improvements, and law enforcement training facilities in the Treasury Appropriations Act.



Furthermore, the duty of the President under section 586 of the Foreign Operations Appropriations Act to issue and provide copies of an order relating to consideration of the release of information is assigned to the Attorney General, who shall ensure that the section is implemented in a manner consistent with the President's constitutional authority to withhold information, the disclosure of which could impair foreign relations, national security, the deliberative processes of the Executive, or the performance of the Executive's constitutional duties.

Finally, to ensure proper respect for the distinct powers of the executive and legislative branches and to ensure effective coordination between them in emergencies, the Attorney General shall serve as the single officer within the executive branch authorized to receive requests from the Chief of the Capitol Police and to approve action by the executive branch in the implementation of section 1017 of the legislative branch Appropriations Act.

**George W. Bush**

The White House,  
February 20, 2003.

NOTE: H.J. Res. 2, approved February 20, was assigned Public Law No. 108-7.

### **Statement on Signing the Consolidated Appropriations Resolution, 2003**

*February 20, 2003*

Today I signed into law H.J. Res. 2, an Omnibus appropriations bill funding the remaining 11 appropriations bills for FY 2003. The funds provided in this resolution will provide important and long overdue resources for our Nations priorities, including fighting the war on terrorism and educating our most vulnerable children.

This bill provides over \$397 billion in discretionary budget authority, including \$10 billion in reserve funding for the Department of Defense, and is largely consistent with the agreed upon overall funding level. My original budget request, made a year ago, asked for the War on Terror reserve. I had separately agreed to endorse new funds for elec-

tion reform, a bill that was passed months after my budget was submitted.

Unfortunately, the Congress chose to circumvent the spending limit for FY 2003 by borrowing \$2.2 billion in funding from FY 2004. This action must be corrected by adjusting both the 2004 budget allocations and appropriations, and holding advance appropriations constant with the level enacted last year. I will ask the Leadership to ensure this happens.

This bill allocates over \$53 billion in total Education funding. The Congress provided increases for many of my high-priority programs, including programs for reading, disadvantaged students, special education, and Pell Grants.

The bill also includes \$3.3 billion in unrequested drought and other assistance, which is only minimally offset by real reductions in existing farm spending. Ninety-five percent of purported savings are scheduled to come several years from now, after the expiration of today's farm bill, and may prove illusory.

Most troublesome, H.J. Res. 2 falls nearly \$1 billion short of my request for State and local law enforcement and emergency personnel, and in particular underfunds terrorism preparedness for first responders. I requested \$3.5 billion for the First Responders Initiative. The bill, however, provides only \$1.3 billion for this purpose. Meanwhile the bill provides \$2.2 billion for existing State and local grant programs, which are not directly related to higher-priority terrorism preparedness and prevention efforts. This is unsatisfactory, and my Administration will use every appropriate tool available to ensure that these funds are directed to the highest priority homeland security needs.

This belated agreement to last years appropriations process is not perfect, but it underscores the need to move quickly on this years priorities outlined in my 2004 budget request. I look forward to working with the Congress to continue funding the war on terror, strengthening our economy, and protecting the homeland.

**George W. Bush**

NOTE: H.J. Res. 2, approved February 20, was assigned Public Law No. 108-7. An original was

not available for verification of the content of this statement.

**Letter to Congressional Leaders  
Transmitting a Report on United  
States Individuals Involved in the  
Antinarcotics Campaign in Colombia**

*February 20, 2003*

*Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)*

Pursuant to section 3204(f), title III, chapter 2 of the Emergency Supplemental Act, 2000 (the "Act"), as enacted in the Military Construction Appropriations Act, 2001, Public Law 106-246, I am providing a report prepared by my Administration that provides "the aggregate number, locations, activities, and lengths of assignment for all temporary and permanent U.S. military personnel and U.S. individual civilians retained as contractors involved in the antinarcotics campaign in Colombia."

In so doing, I note and appreciate the continued strong bipartisan support given to U.S. programs assisting Colombia in the Act and elsewhere.

This report is classified because of force protection considerations and the high level of terrorist threat in Colombia. However, the aggregate numbers given below are unclassified.

The report indicates that as of January 13, 2003, the end of this reporting period, there were 208 temporary and permanent U.S. military personnel and 279 U.S. civilians retained as individual contractors in Colombia involved in supporting Plan Colombia. This report further indicates that during November and December 2002, and January 2003, these figures never exceeded the ceilings established in section 3204(b) of the Act, as amended.

Sincerely,

**George W. Bush**

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Richard B. Cheney, President of the Senate.

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**Digest of Other  
White House Announcements**

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The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

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**February 15**

In the morning, at Camp David, MD, the President had an intelligence briefing.

**February 16**

In the morning, the President returned to Washington, DC.

**February 17**

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with Crown Prince Abdullah of Saudi Arabia concerning the President's wishes for a successful conclusion to the Hajj pilgrimage, peace efforts in the Middle East, the war on terror, and the situation in Iraq.

The President then had intelligence and FBI briefings. Later in the morning, he met with President Vaira Vike-Freiberga of Latvia in the Oval Office.

**February 18**

In the morning, the President had intelligence and FBI briefings.

**February 19**

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with Amir Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani of Qatar concerning the war on terror, the situation in Iraq, and the President's support for political and economic reforms in Qatar. He also had a telephone conversation with President Megawati Sukarnoputri of Indonesia concerning the war on terror, efforts to ensure the safety of Americans in Indonesia, and the situation in Iraq.

Later in the morning, the President had intelligence and FBI briefings and met with the National Security Council.

In the afternoon, the President participated in an interview with journalists from the Telemundo television network.

The White House announced that the President will host President Jose Maria Aznar of Spain at the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX, for an informal dinner and working sessions on February 21–22.

### ***February 20***

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he traveled to Marietta, GA, where, upon arrival, he met with Freedom Corps volunteer Robert Langley. He then traveled to Kennesaw, GA, where, at Carl Harrison High School, he met with small-business owners and employees to discuss jobs and economic growth.

In the afternoon, the President traveled to the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX.

The White House announced that the President will welcome Prime Minister Simeon Saxe-Coburg-Gotha of Bulgaria to Washington, DC, on February 25 to discuss the situation in Iraq and other issues.

The President announced his intention to nominate Anne Rader to be a member of the National Council on Disability.

### ***February 21***

In the morning, at the Bush Ranch, the President had an intelligence briefing. He then had a telephone conversation with Amir Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir Al Sabah and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir Al Sabah of Kuwait concerning the situation in Iraq and the President's congratulations on the conclusion of the Hajj.

Later in the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan concerning the situations in Cyprus and Iraq.

In the evening, the President welcomed President Jose Maria Aznar of Spain to the Bush Ranch. Later, the President and Mrs. Bush had dinner with President Aznar and National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice.

The White House announced that the President will meet with President Heydar

Aliyev of Azerbaijan at the White House on February 26.

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## **Nominations Submitted to the Senate**

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NOTE: No nominations were submitted to the Senate during the period covered by this issue.

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## **Checklist of White House Press Releases**

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The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

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### ***Released February 18***

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

### ***Released February 19***

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary: Visit of President of the Government of Spain Jose Maria Aznar

### ***Released February 20***

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary: Prime Minister Saxe-Coburg-Gotha of Bulgaria To Visit Washington

Announcement of nominations for U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of California and for U.S. Tax Court Judge

***Released February 21***

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

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**Acts Approved  
by the President**

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***Approved February 20***

Statement by the Press Secretary: Visit by President Aliyev of Azerbaijan to Washington

H.J. Res. 2 / Public Law 108–7  
Consolidated Appropriations Resolution,  
2003